



Money matters

April 2010

Melt Debt with the Debt-Snowball Method

Are you the type of person who prefers to tackle smaller goals that lead up to accomplishing a larger goal? Do you have more than one credit card or loan to pay? If so, then you may consider the debt-snowball repayment technique. It helps you melt debt by paying off your smallest balance first, then rolling the payment into paying off the next largest debt.



Here's how to make the debt-snowball method work for you:

1. List your debts in order from smallest to largest balance. Just look at the amount owed, not the interest rate.
2. Budget to pay the minimum payment on every balance except the smallest one.
3. Determine how much extra above the minimum payment you can pay on the smallest balance, then pay this amount each month until the balance is paid off.

4. Roll the paid-off debt's payment amount to the second smallest debt's payment.
5. Repeat until you pay the largest balance in full.

Although you may not pay debt with the highest interest rate first as some financial experts recommend, the debt-snowball method can motivate you to pay off debt faster when you see results sooner. If possible, add extra money to the payment amount with each new "snowball roll" – and heat up your path to being debt-free!

TIP:

When your last debt is paid, keep your snowball rolling by depositing the final debt repayment amount into your share savings account at Sacramento Credit Union each month. Using automatic transfer from checking to savings is easy, convenient and a great way to keep your savings growing. Just visit www.sactocu.org and click "Savings" under the "Personal" menu to learn more.

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Calendar of Events

Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day
SCU Offices Closed

Notice of Change in Terms June 1, 2010

The following Sacramento Credit Union fee will be effective June 1, 2010:

Deposited Checks Returned (Savings) ... \$24

Election Results

The Sacramento Credit Union Annual Meeting was held Feb. 18, 2010. Here are the results of the election:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Willie L. Southward III, Chair
AnnMarie Boylan, Vice Chair
John Beck, Secretary-Treasurer
Les Brown, Director
Judy McGarry, Director
Mark Norris, Director
Jan Reeves, Director
Terry Tice, Director

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE

Gene Webb, Chair
Pat Wilcox, Secretary
Remie Diva, Member
Beverly Skeaton, Member

Beware of Census Scams

It's that time again: The 2010 U.S. census is being conducted this spring and summer. Once a decade, census workers count every person in the country and collect information about every resident, including name, age, gender and race.

The data collected for the census is used for a variety of purposes, including allocating more than \$400 billion in federal funds and determining how many seats each state occupies in the House of Representatives.

You're required by law to provide the requested information to the Census Bureau. And, according to the County of Sacramento Department of Economic

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Sacramento Credit Union: A Safe Place for Your Funds

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 AnnMarie Boylan, Vice Chair
 John Beck, Secretary-Treasurer
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 Judy McGarry, Director
 Mark Norris, Director
 Jan Reeves, Director
 Terry Tice, Director

Supervisory Committee
 Gene Webb, Chair
 Pat Wilcox, Secretary
 Remie Diva, Member
 Beverly Skeaton, Member

President & CEO
 Jerrold A. Kinlock

Branch Hours
 Mon. - Thurs. • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Friday • 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All Offices
 Phone: (916) 444-6070
 Toll Free: 1(888) SACTO-01
 24-Hour LoanAccess Line
 Toll Free: 1(877) 444-LEND
 E-Z Access: (916) 441-2255
 Toll Free: 1(800) 397-2255

Elk Grove
 9160 E. Stockton Blvd., Ste. 120

Fair Oaks
 8100 Madison Avenue

Sacramento
 3660 Bradshaw Road
 800 H Street
 3045 Arden Way, Ste. 200
 6121 Franklin Blvd.
 Kaiser Hospital*
 6600 Bruceville Road
 * Limited hours of operation.

www.sactocu.org

Home Loans
www.SCUhome.com
 (916) 441-LOAN

SCU Investment Services
 (916) 444-8599, ext. 3112

**Personal Auto Shopper
 Autoland**
 (916) 449-2763

Spend less and save more – it's becoming a way of life for many people. You may keep a more careful eye on prices at the grocery store as well as your retirement funds. Perhaps you decided to scale down a vacation or put off taking a trip this year. You may be saying, "I don't need this," more often when considering a new purchase.

According to a 2009 Gallup poll, spending is down among all age groups, but baby boomers (those born from 1946 to 1964) are tightening their wallets even more than Generation X (those born between 1965 and 1979). Because baby boomers are the largest group of U.S. consumers, their spending habits have a proportionately stronger effect on the economy. Gallup notes that this decline in spending could mean a weaker economic recovery.

SAVING MAKES SENSE

If you're a boomer, there's no need to feel guilty about spending less than in years past – it's smart to cut back on spending as you approach your golden years, especially in a slowly recovering economy. It's wise to save more money to pay for purchases rather than charging them on credit

cards. Sacramento Credit Union has several savings vehicles to keep your funds secure.

The money you deposit with us is protected by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). The NCUA insures each account holder's funds to at least \$250,000 until Dec. 31, 2013.* Individual retirement accounts and certain other retirement accounts are separately insured up to \$250,000. You can extend NCUA coverage if you establish different types of accounts – a credit union representative can determine the accounts that may work best for your situation.

Learn more about the savings products at Sacramento Credit Union that can keep your money secure by calling **(916) 444-6070**, visiting us at www.sactocu.org or stopping by the nearest branch.

* After Dec. 31, 2013, the basic insurance limit will return to \$100,000, barring further legislation, and retirement accounts will be separately insured to \$250,000.

Beware of Census Scams ... continued from front

Development, it's particularly important for you to respond to the census, as undercounting leads to decreased funding for vital programs in our community. But it's important to be cautious when providing your personal information to someone you don't know. Unfortunately, scammers are already posing as census workers and asking for private data.

DON'T FALL FOR PHONY REQUESTS

Knowing the details of the official U.S. census can help you avoid being scammed:

- You may be contacted by phone, mail or in person by the Census Bureau.
- You will not be contacted by e-mail. Never open an e-mail or click on a link that claims to be from the Census Bureau.
- Census workers who visit homes will carry a badge, handheld device, canvas tote and confidentiality agreement. Request to see

the visitor's identification and badge before providing information.

- A census worker will never request your Social Security number, bank account information or credit card numbers.
- Census workers will never ask for donations.

YOUR INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

The information you provide for the census is protected by federal law, so you can rest assured that your data will remain confidential. The Census Bureau will never publish or share your private information with anyone, including other government agencies or courts.

For more information about the census, or to report a suspicious census request, visit www.census.gov.*

* Web site provided for information only. No endorsement is implied.

